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MAY 20 2014

Dear Dr. Pannekoek:

I am writing in response to your letter of February 14, 2014, forwarded to me by the Office of the Prime Minister, regarding the closure of research facilities and departmental libraries. I appreciate you taking the time to share your organization's concerns.

Please be assured that our Government recognizes the importance of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the many services it provides, as it plays an essential role in preserving Canada's documentary heritage.

Our Government is committed to attracting and retaining the world's best researchers, supporting innovation, creating jobs and strengthening our economy. We are investing in programs such as the Canada Research Chairs, fostering cutting-edge research and supporting innovation in the marketplace for the benefit of Canadians. In addition, in Budget 2014, our Government announced the creation of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, providing \$1.5 billion in funding over the next decade to help Canada's post-secondary institutions excel globally in research areas that create long-term economic advantages for Canada.

With respect to the closing of departmental libraries, LAC is mandated to acquire, preserve and make available Canada's documentary heritage. LAC has a lead role in developing standards, tools and best practices for information management and recordkeeping, in co-operation with the central agencies, other federal departments and institutions, as well as stakeholders.

The *Library and Archives of Canada Act* establishes the authority of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada to control the destruction of records by federal institutions and preserve those with archival or historical value, and to take the measures necessary to achieve these objectives. The Act also identifies the responsibilities, obligations and accountabilities of government institutions with respect to records disposal processes.

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In cases where records are determined to have archival or historical value and need to be placed under the custody and control of LAC, the Librarian and Archivist of Canada negotiates agreements with government institutions regarding the timing of their transfer, or other arrangements, to secure their preservation as archival documents. Meanwhile, facilitating access to Canada's documentary heritage continues to be a priority for LAC. In recent years, LAC has worked on numerous initiatives designed to augment and facilitate access to its collections.

As an agency in the Canadian Heritage Portfolio, LAC is responsible for its own operational decisions under the direction of the Librarian and Archivist. As such, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of our correspondence to Mr. Hervé Déry, Acting Deputy Head and Librarian and Archivist of Canada, so that he is aware of your organization's concerns.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelly Glover". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Shelly Glover, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Hervé Déry